AMERICAN COMICS GROUP ACG

DARING the SUPERNATURAL

AMERICAN COMICS GROUP ACG

No 14
MAY

OUT OF the NIGHT

10¢

There's A THRILL IN 3-D--- BUT NOBODY EVER DREAMED OF THE AWFUL TERROR WHICH A CRAZED INVENTOR UNLEASHED UPON A HORROR-STRICKEN WORLD! SEE IT IN ALL ITS CHILLING SUSPENSE, IN--- "OUT of the SCREEN"!

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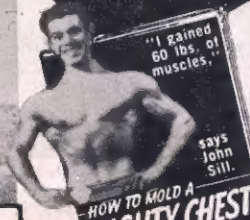

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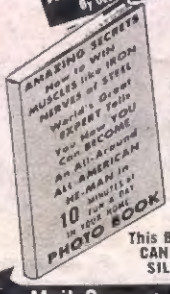

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He Mailed Coupon Below is Cleveland

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He Mailed Coupon

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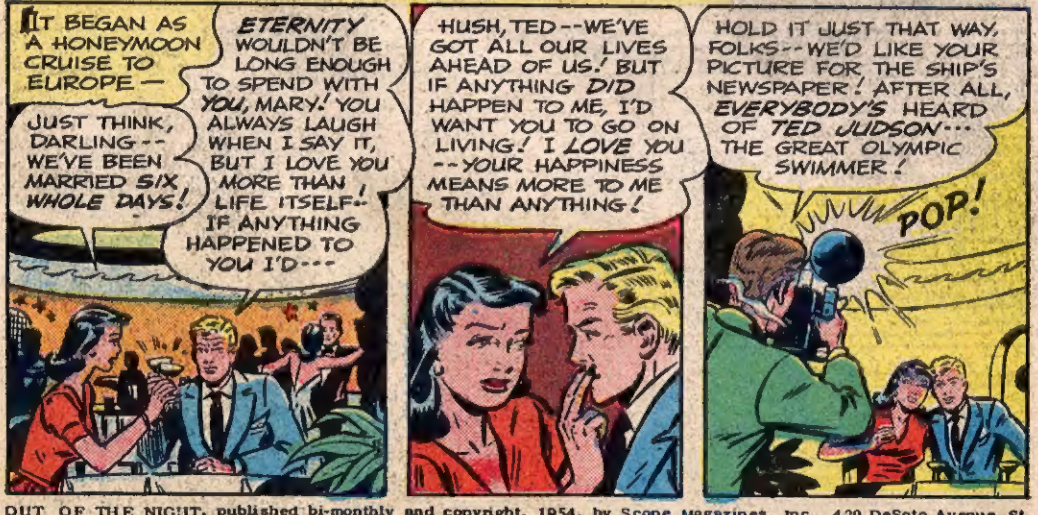

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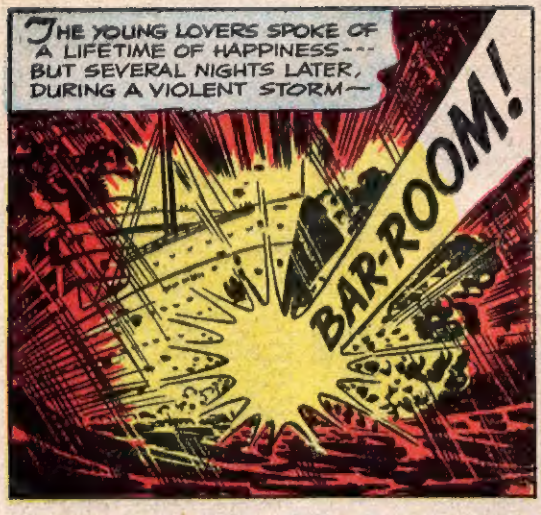
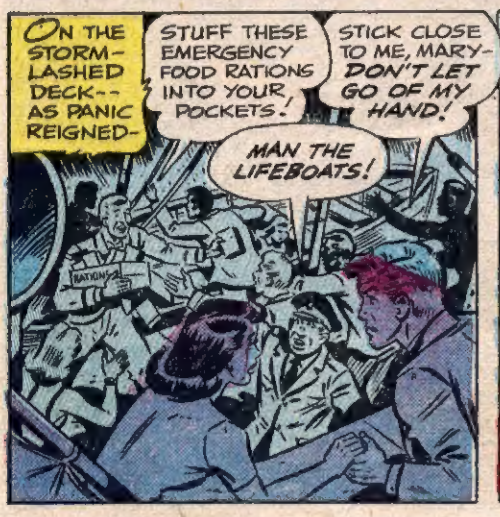

THE YOUNG LOVERS SPOKE OF A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS--- BUT SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, DURING A VIOLENT STORM—
BAR-ROOM!

BELOW, WHERE THE TERRIFIC EXPLOSION HAD FLUNG PASSENGERS HEADLONG—
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
EVERYBODY ON DECK! THE SHIP HAS STRUCK A FLOATING MINE!


ON THE STORM-LASHED DECK-- AS PANIC REIGNED-
STUFF THESE EMERGENCY FOOD RATIONS INTO YOUR POCKETS!
STICK CLOSE TO ME, MARY- DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND!
MAN THE LIFEBOATS!

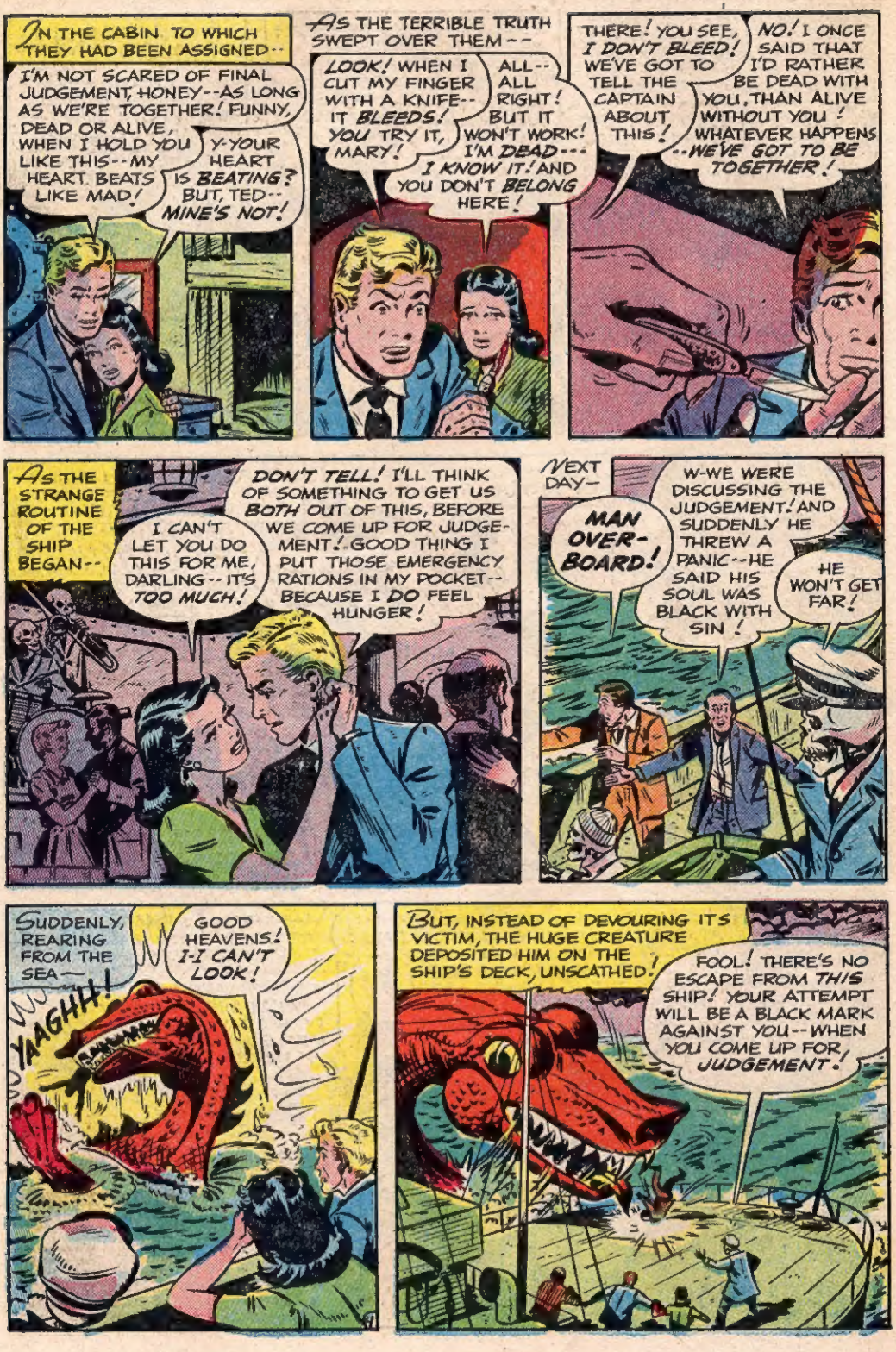
THEN, FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO KEEP THE FRAIL LIFEBOAT UPRIGHT ON THE PLUNGING SEAS---
THAT MINE MUST'VE BEEN ONE OF THOSE STILL AFLOAT FROM THE LAST WAR-- IT RIPPED THE SHIP OPEN, LIKE A SARDINE CAN! JUST PRAY ITS LAST S.O.S SIGNALS ARE PICKED UP!

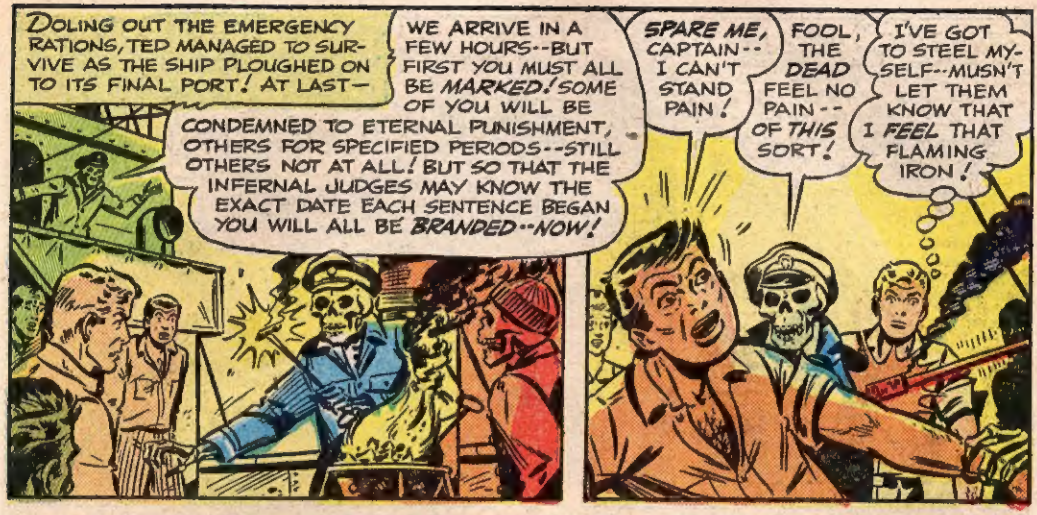
WE'LL ALL BE DROWNED! LOOK-- THE OTHERS ARE BEING SWAMPED!
SIT DOWN, BLAST YOU! YOU'RE UNBALANCING THE BOAT!

THEN—
LOOK OUT! WE'RE GOING TO---
AI-EEE!
CRASH!

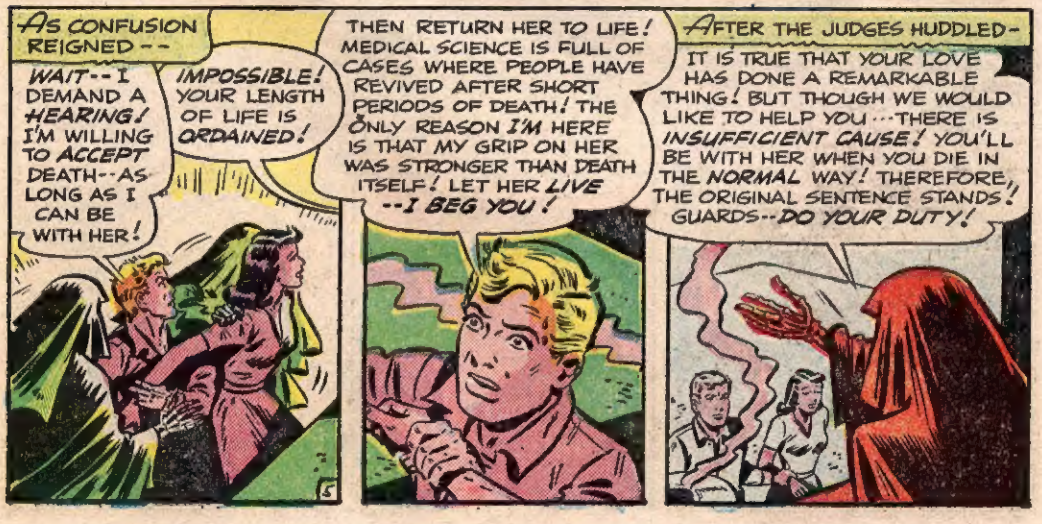
AS THE SHRIEKS OF THE DYING FILLED THE HOWLING AIR--
HOLD ME, MARY-- TREAD WATER!
HELP!

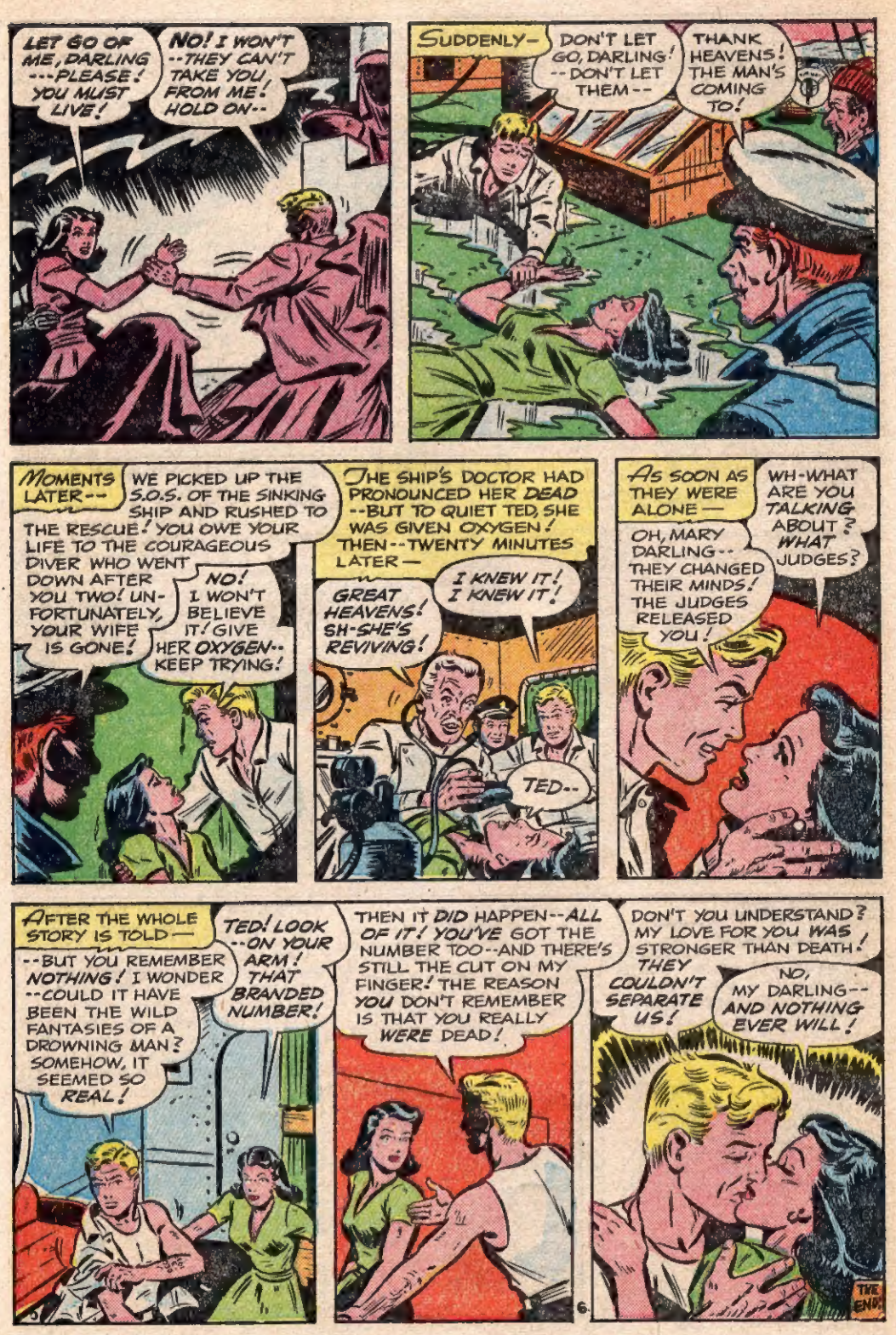
THE WILD WAVES SOON SEPARATED THE FEW SURVIVORS! FOR HOURS TED'S GREAT SWIMMING PROWESS PREVAILED OVER THE RAGING ELEMENTS--
THEN
LET ME --GO! I-I CAN'T HOLD OUT! SAVE-- YOURSELF!
HOLD ON TIGHT, DARLING--THOSE S.O.S SIGNALS MAY'VE BEEN HEARD-- HOLD ON!
BUT THE GIRL'S STRENGTH WAS GONE! AND WHEN TED'S MIGHTY ARMS TIRED--
I-I CAN'T HOLD YOU-- ANY LONGER! FAREWELL-- DARLING--
DON'T LET GO, MARY! A SHIP IS COMING-- LOOK--! HOLD ME!
AS THE SHIP PULLED ALONGSIDE, MARY'S GRIP LOOSENED--REFUSING TO LET GO OF HER, HER WEIGHT DRAGGED THEM BOTH DOWN-- UNTIL—
NEITHER FELT THE STRANGE HUGE NET WHICH SCOOPED THEIR LIMP BODIES FROM THE DEPTHS—
NOR WERE THEY AWARE OF ANYTHING--UNTIL—
DON'T-- LET GO! HOLD ON-- DARLING! HOLD--
OH, TED--WE'RE ALIVE! WE'RE SAVED!
BUT WHEN THEY LOOKED UP AT THE CIRCLE OF FACES AROUND THEM---
OHHH!
YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD ESCAPED? HA! HA! NO, THIS SHIP COLLECTS THE SOULS OF THOSE, WHO DROWN AT SEA. YOU ARE BEING TAKEN TO THE BEYOND--FOR FINAL JUDGEMENT!
HEAR ME, PASSENGERS! WE ARRIVE AT OUR DESTINATION IN THREE DAYS! UNTIL THEN, THINGS WILL BE VERY PLEASANT ABOARD THIS SHIP---SO LONG AS THE RULES ARE KEPT! LET NO ONE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE--- FOR THAT WOULD BE MOST UNPLEASANT!
AS THE MEETING DISPERSED--
SAY, STEWARD --WHAT TIME DO WE HAVE MEALS AROUND HERE?
MEALS? FOOL, THERE ARE NO MEALS--HOW CAN THE DEAD KNOW HUNGER?
STEWARD
3


IN THE CABIN TO WHICH THEY HAD BEEN ASSIGNED--
I'M NOT SCARED OF FINAL JUDGEMENT, HONEY--AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER! FUNNY, DEAD OR ALIVE, WHEN I HOLD YOU LIKE THIS--MY HEART BEATS LIKE MAD!
Y-YOUR HEART IS BEATING? BUT, TED-- MINE'S NOT!
AS THE TERRIBLE TRUTH SWEPT OVER THEM--
LOOK! WHEN I CUT MY FINGER WITH A KNIFE-- IT BLEEDS! YOU TRY IT, MARY!
ALL-- ALL RIGHT! BUT IT WON'T WORK! I'M DEAD--- I KNOW IT! AND YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!
THERE! YOU SEE, I DON'T BLEED! WE'VE GOT TO TELL THE CAPTAIN ABOUT THIS!
NO! I ONCE SAID THAT I'D RATHER BE DEAD WITH YOU, THAN ALIVE WITHOUT YOU! WHATEVER HAPPENS --WE'VE GOT TO BE TOGETHER!
AS THE STRANGE ROUTINE OF THE SHIP BEGAN--
I CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS FOR ME, DARLING-- IT'S TOO MUCH!
DON'T TELL! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING TO GET US BOTH OUT OF THIS, BEFORE WE COME UP FOR JUDGEMENT! GOOD THING I PUT THOSE EMERGENCY RATIONS IN MY POCKET-- BECAUSE I DO FEEL HUNGER!
NEXT DAY--
MAN OVER-BOARD!
W-WE WERE DISCUSSING THE JUDGEMENT! AND SUDDENLY HE THREW A PANIC--HE SAID HIS SOUL WAS BLACK WITH SIN!
HE WON'T GET FAR!
SUDDENLY, REARING FROM THE SEA--
GOOD HEAVENS! I-I CAN'T LOOK!
YAAGHH!
BUT, INSTEAD OF DEVOURING ITS VICTIM, THE HUGE CREATURE DEPOSITED HIM ON THE SHIP'S DECK, UNSCATHED!
FOOL! THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM THIS SHIP! YOUR ATTEMPT WILL BE A BLACK MARK AGAINST YOU--WHEN YOU COME UP FOR JUDGEMENT!



ENDURING EVERYTHING --THE WEIRD VOYAGE WAS AT LAST OVER! THEN, BEFORE THE COURT OF INFERNAL JUDGES, THEY HEARD JUDGEMENT PASSED-- ON THE GOOD AND EVIL!




LET GO OF ME, DARLING ---PLEASE! YOU MUST LIVE!
NO! I WON'T --THEY CAN'T TAKE YOU, FROM ME! HOLD ON--
SUDDENLY--
DON'T LET GO, DARLING! --DON'T LET THEM--
THANK HEAVENS! THE MAN'S COMING TO!
MOMENTS LATER--
WE PICKED UP THE S.O.S. OF THE SINKING SHIP AND RUSHED TO THE RESCUE! YOU OWE YOUR LIFE TO THE COURAGEOUS DIVER WHO WENT DOWN AFTER YOU TWO! UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR WIFE IS GONE!
NO! I WON'T BELIEVE IT! GIVE HER OXYGEN-- KEEP TRYING!
THE SHIP'S DOCTOR HAD PRONOUNCED HER DEAD --BUT TO QUIET TED, SHE WAS GIVEN OXYGEN! THEN--TWENTY MINUTES LATER--
GREAT HEAVENS! SH-SHE'S REVIVING!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT!
TED--
AS SOON AS THEY WERE ALONE--
OH, MARY DARLING-- THEY CHANGED THEIR MINDS! THE JUDGES RELEASED YOU!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT JUDGES?
AFTER THE WHOLE STORY IS TOLD--
--BUT YOU REMEMBER NOTHING! I WONDER --COULD IT HAVE BEEN THE WILD FANTASIES OF A DROWNING MAN? SOMEHOW, IT SEEMED SO REAL!
TED! LOOK --ON YOUR ARM! THAT BRANDED NUMBER!
THEN IT DID HAPPEN--ALL OF IT! YOU'VE GOT THE NUMBER TOO--AND THERE'S STILL THE CUT ON MY FINGER! THE REASON YOU DON'T REMEMBER IS THAT YOU REALLY WERE DEAD!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? MY LOVE FOR YOU WAS STRONGER THAN DEATH! THEY COULDN'T SEPARATE US!
NO, MY DARLING-- AND NOTHING EVER WILL!
THE END
5
6

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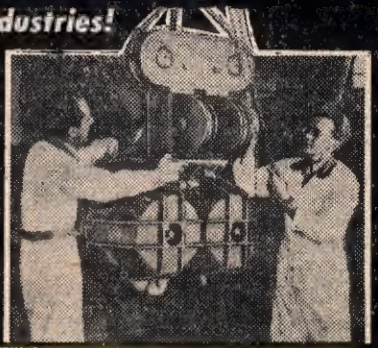

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The BOLTED DOOR

OTTO SCHWANN lingered lovingly over his grisly work. Though any man with a shred of remorse or conscience would have buried his victim swiftly, Schwann felt disposed to savor to the fullest every moment of his murderous victory.

The body of Arthur Haller lay crumpled on the floor of the huge wine cellar, already stiffening in death. The two men had been friends for more than thirty years, but in Schwann's heart a venomous hatred had been growing ever since Haller had won the woman they had both loved. The woman was dead long since, but that made no difference to the obsessed man. He had guarded his secret well. Haller had suspected nothing during all those long years.

How simple it had finally been to lure his "friend" to his lonely country estate; how willing Haller had been to explore the well-stocked wine cellar! A single blow with a heavy hammer had done the rest.

No one would ever know. No one even knew that Haller had gone to Schwann's home. At best the police would make a few unpleasant inquiries when Haller became listed as missing. Who could possibly imagine that he had *killed* his old friend? Schwann laughed mirthfully as he picked up the trowel and went back to his work.

It was such a simple idea, burying Haller in the wall. Only he ever entered the wine cellar. The servants he had sent away for the week would suspect nothing upon returning. Yes, he thought he'd been devilishly clever in his plan. The extra section of wall which was to be Haller's tomb was almost complete now. In a few minutes he would be able to leave the dank cellar and drink a toast before a roaring fire upstairs...a toast to his perfect crime.

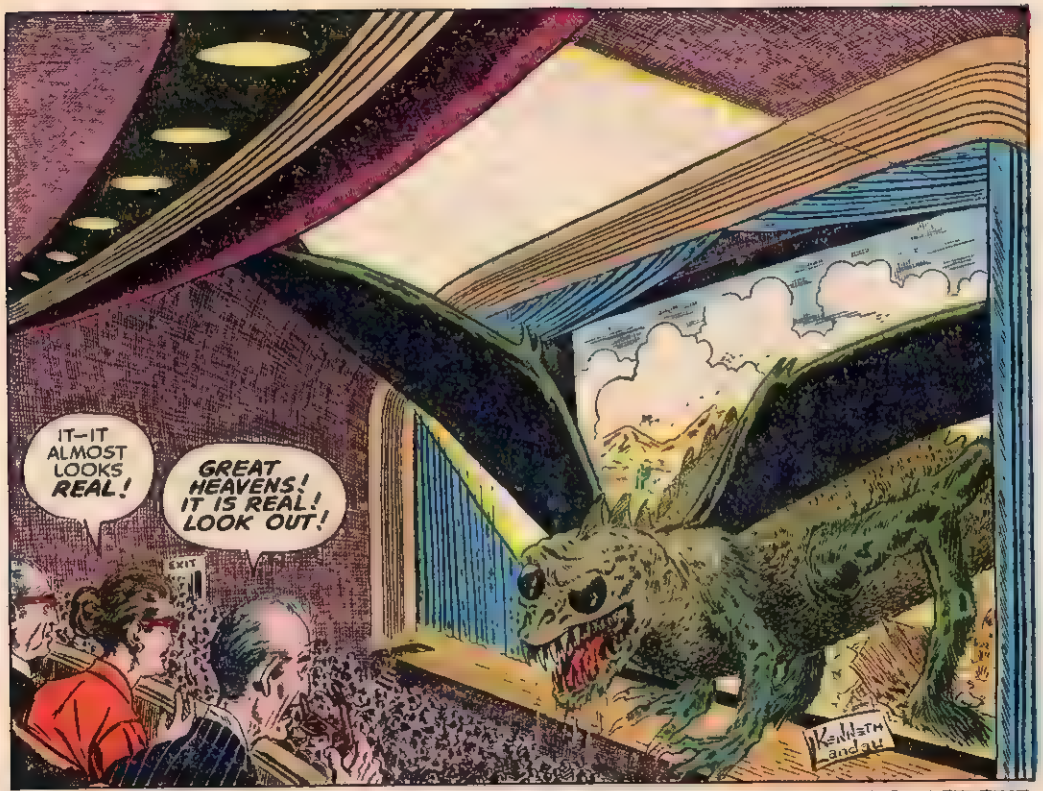
When the work was done he stepped back to admire his job. As his features creased into an evil smile he suddenly heard the heavy iron door which led into the cellar crash shut, a sound which nearly startled him out of his wits. Quickly he dashed to the door. Could it have been the wind...or was there somebody in the house?

Just as he reached the door he heard the massive bolts on the outside grate into place. "A-Anybody there?" he shouted. "Open the door, you fool! It's me, Schwann! I'm still inside!" There was no sound from outside. All was deathly stillness. Frantically Schwann put his shoulder to the door. It didn't budge. "Open up!" he screamed, suddenly growing terribly frightened.

It was then he heard the awful laugh behind him. He whirled as the blood left his face...but there was no one there! The ghastly laugh became louder, and as the pitch of terror mounted Schwann realized that the laugh was coming from *behind the wall*, the tomb of Haller! But Haller *couldn't* be alive...his body had been growing stiff with death!

Maniacally, Schwann flung himself against the door...to no avail. No, the laughter was all about him, insane hysterical laughter...as if it came from another world! For a mad instant Schwann wondered whether...somehow ...*Haller* could have closed the door. But no, that was impossible! Still, there had to be some explanation!

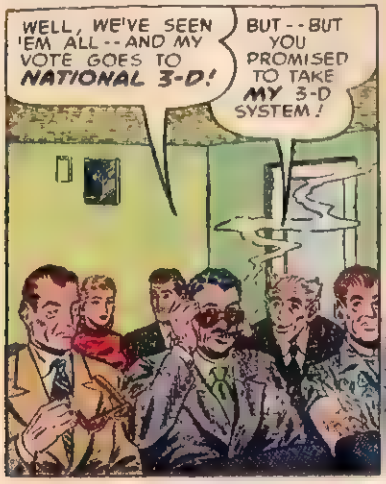
A slow and agonizing death faced Schwann now, he knew that. The servants would not be back for a week, and he couldn't possibly survive on wine that long. Besides, the terrible cold in the cellar would claim him before the night was gone. Suddenly, weak, his knees buckled under him and he buried his face in his hands. But he couldn't shut out the wildly echoing laughter, which mounted ever higher in its triumphant frenzy!

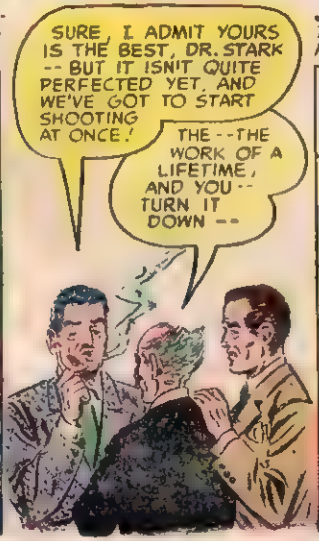


CIVILIZATION HAS PROGRESSED WITH MAN'S INVENTIVE GENIUS! BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT GENIUS IS THWARTED, AND HATE CLOUDS THE HUMAN MIND? READ THE THRILLING ANSWER -- SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN **TERROR** STEPS ---

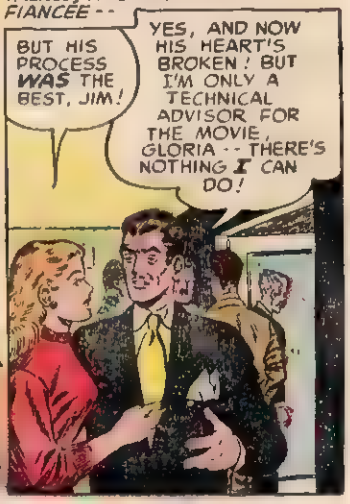
OUT OF THE SCREEN

IT ALL STARTED IN A MOVIE STUDIO-- AT A TEST OF VARIOUS 3-DIMENSIONAL FILM PROCESSES --

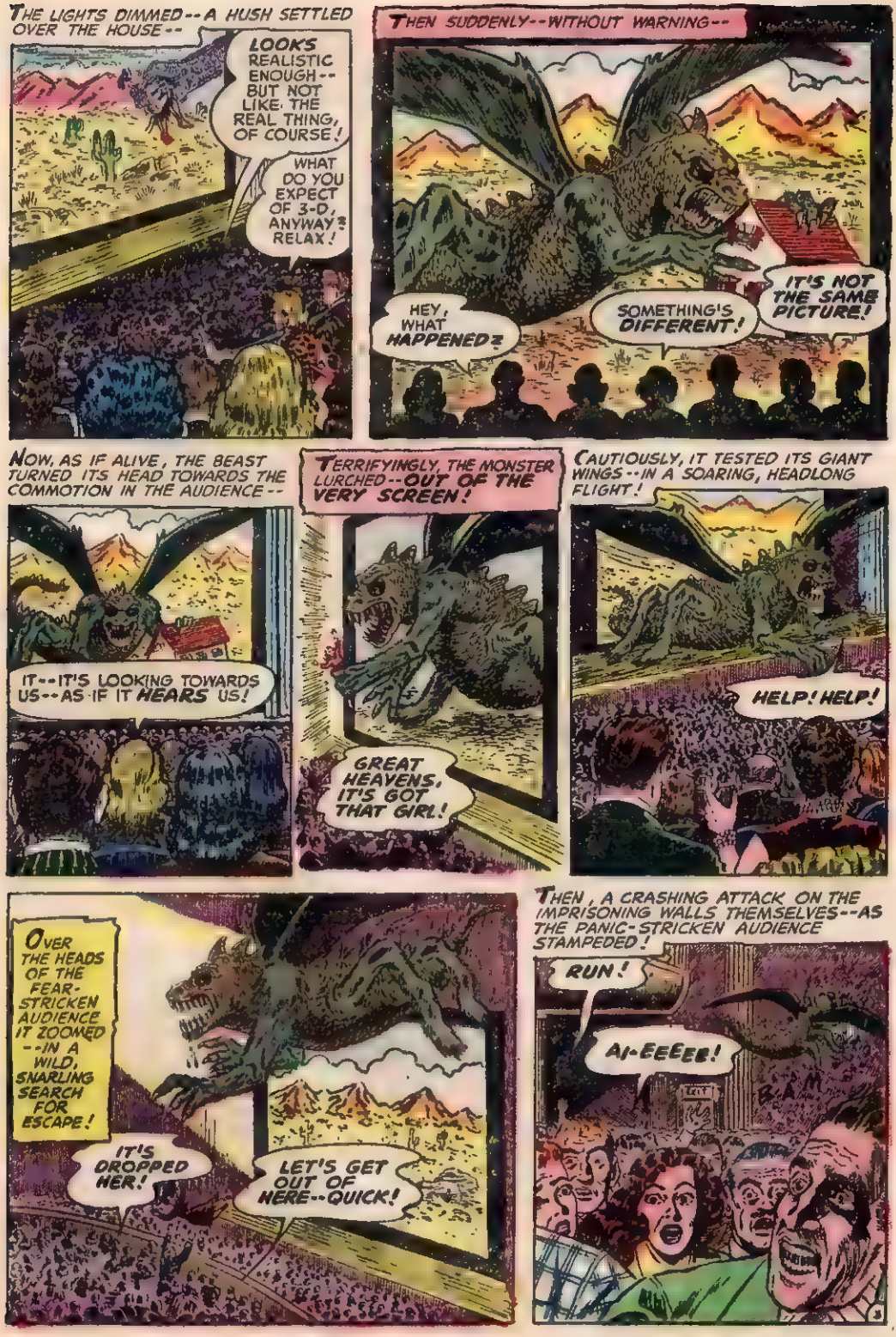




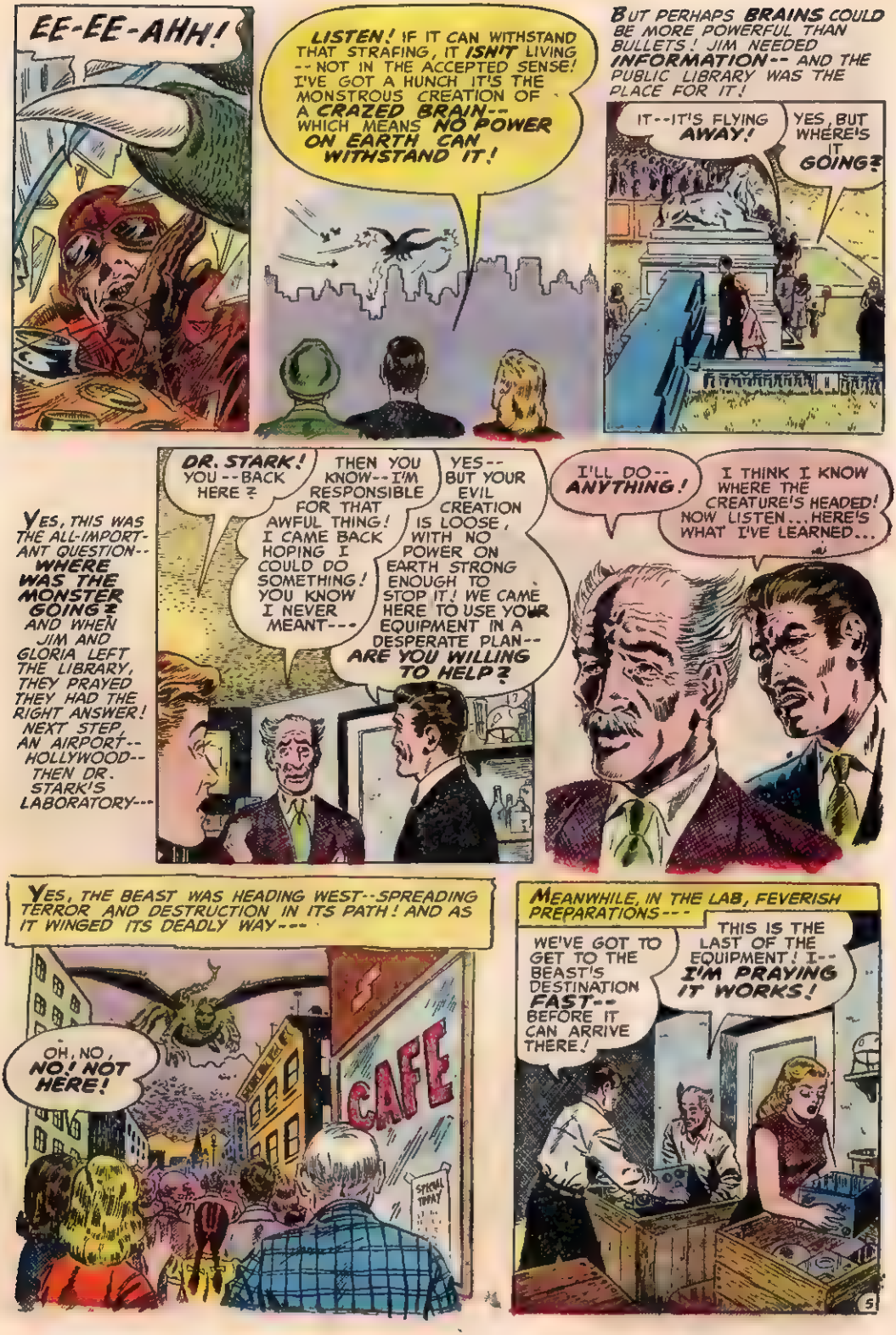
JIM MANLEY, GEOLOGIST, TALKED IT OVER WITH HIS FIANCÉE --

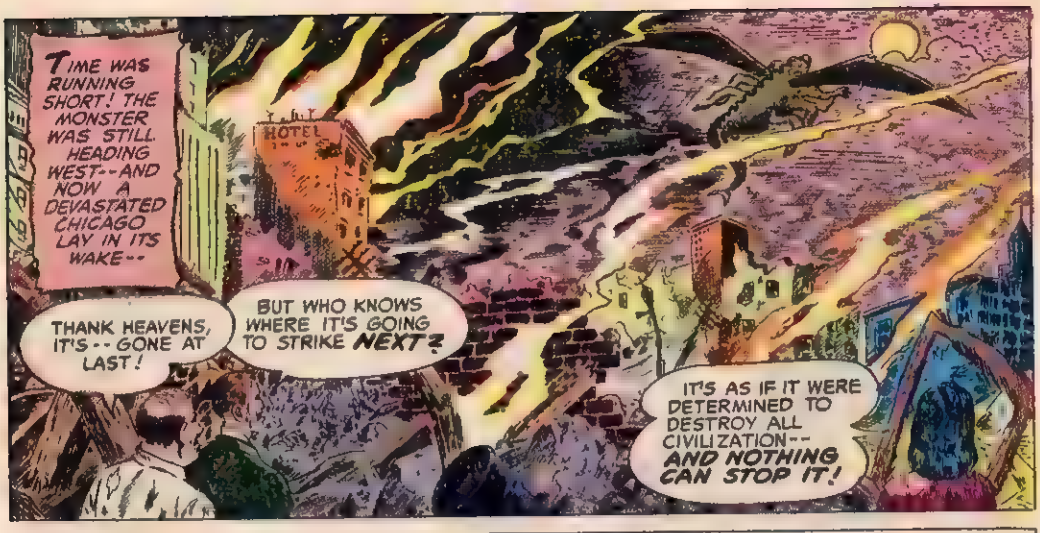


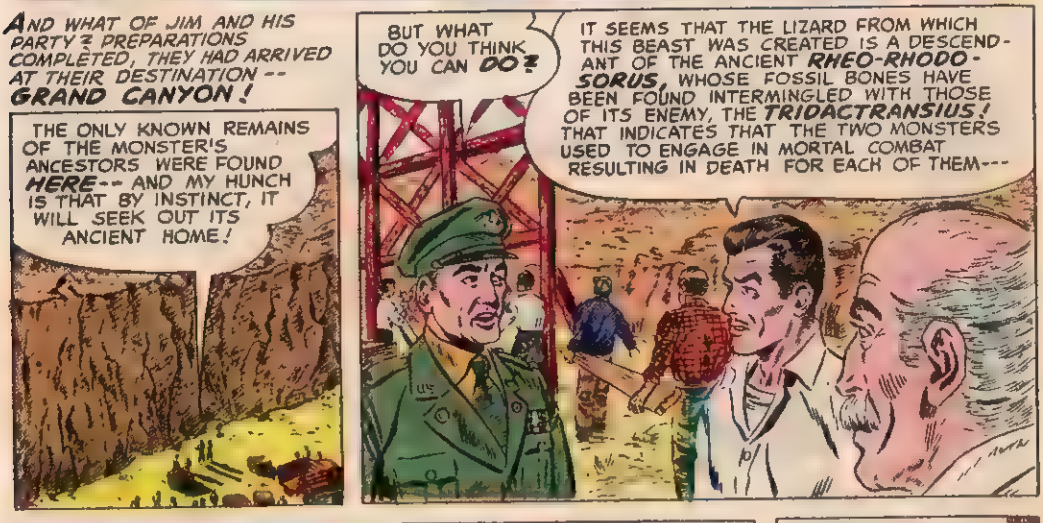
ON THE SET---
MAYBE THIS PROCESS IS BETTER! STARK'S WAS TOO-- REALISTIC!
YOU'RE THE EXPERT ON DINOSAURS, JIM! THIS PAW LOOK AUTHENTIC?
UH-UH! FOSSILIZED SKELETONS OF THAT GENUS SHOW ONLY FOUR DIGITS!
OKAY, CHANGE IT-- ON THE DOUBLE! WE GOTTA START THOSE CAMERAS ROLLING!
MEANWHILE--IN DR. STARK'S NEARBY LABORATORY--
WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM, WAS I? THEN I'LL TURN MOVIE PRODUCER MYSELF! LET'S SEE...A DESERT...A DOLL'S HOUSE CONCEALING A BIT OF RAW MEAT--
--AND YOU, MY LITTLE BEAUTY--THE STAR OF OUR SHOW!
AND NOW--LIGHTS-- ACTION-- CAMERA!
TIME PASSED... JIM'S COMPANY WAS HOLDING A PREMIERE FOR ITS PICTURE IN NEW YORK--UNAWARE THAT ANOTHER PICTURE HAD BEEN FINISHED--
TIMES SQUARE BIJOU
WORLD PREMIERE TONIGHT
GREATEST SPECTACLE OF THE AGE!
THREE DIMENSIONS!
3D
GUESS MY IMAGINATION'S GETTING THE BETTER OF ME, GLORIA! I THOUGHT I SAW DR. STARK SLIPPING IN THE SIDE DOOR!
MADE IT! NOW TO CHANGE THEIR SECOND REEL FOR MINE! AND WITH THE RAY APPARATUS INSTALLED IN THE PROJECTOR-- EVERYTHING'S SET FOR MY LITTLE SURPRISE!
2

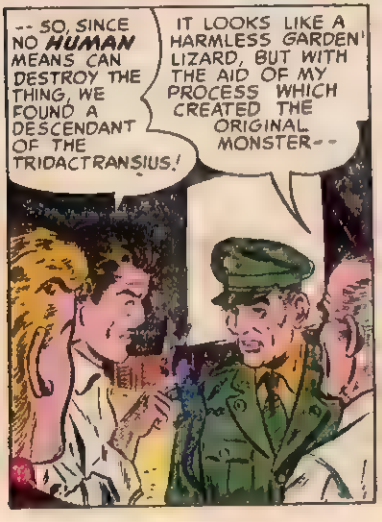

THE LIGHTS DIMMED--A HUSH SETTLED OVER THE HOUSE--
LOOK'S REALISTIC ENOUGH--BUT NOT LIKE THE REAL THING, OF COURSE!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF 3-D, ANYWAY? RELAX!
THEN SUDDENLY--WITHOUT WARNING--
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT!
IT'S NOT THE SAME PICTURE!
NOW, AS IF ALIVE, THE BEAST TURNED ITS HEAD TOWARDS THE COMMOTION IN THE AUDIENCE--
IT--IT'S LOOKING TOWARDS US--AS IF IT HEARS US!
TERRIFYINGLY, THE MONSTER LURCHED--OUT OF THE VERY SCREEN!
GREAT HEAVENS, IT'S GOT THAT GIRL!
CAUTIOUSLY, IT TESTED ITS GIANT WINGS--IN A SOARING, HEADLONG FLIGHT!
HELP! HELP!
OVER THE HEADS OF THE FEAR-STRICKEN AUDIENCE IT ZOOMED--IN A WILD, SNARLING SEARCH FOR ESCAPE!
IT'S DROPPED HER!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE--QUICK!
THEN, A CRASHING ATTACK ON THE IMPRISONING WALLS THEMSELVES--AS THE PANIC-STRICKEN AUDIENCE STAMPEDED!
RUN!
AI-EEEEE!
B.A.M.

AND JUST OUTSIDE---
KEEP OUT
LOOK OUT--IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE!
CRASH!
OH-HHH!
STATE
WHAT IS IT? WHY IS EVERYBODY LOOKING UP?
OH, NO, NO--IT CAN'T BE! THAT--THAT FLYING THING--AND IT'S GROWING LARGER EVERY MINUTE!
WILDLY, INSANELY, THE BEAST CAREENED ABOUT TIMES SQUARE--SMASHING AGAINST THE ENCIRCLING SKYSCRAPERS--
KEEP--KEEP BACK, GLORIA! HOW IT EVER HAPPENED, I DON'T KNOW--BUT THAT'S A LIVING, WINGED DINOSAUR! AND IT'S DEADLY!
POW!
LOOK--IT'S HEADED FOR THE TOWER OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!
THERE WAS TIME NOW--TIME TO ORGANIZE AN ATTACK AS THE MONSTER PERCHED HIGH ABOVE THE CITY! A SQUADRON OF PLANES ROARED IN FOR THE KILL--
FUNNY THING--THEY'RE BLASTING AWAY WITH HEAVY MACHINE GUNS--AND THE BULLETS DON'T SEEM TO EVEN WOUND THAT THING!
DON'T EVEN--WOUND IT? BUT IF IT'S A LIVING--GLORIA, I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER--
4

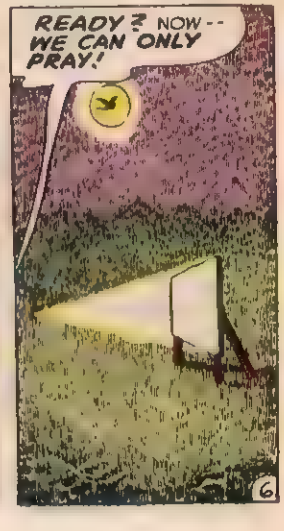

EE-EE-AHH!
LISTEN! IF IT CAN WITHSTAND THAT STRAFING, IT ISN'T LIVING -- NOT IN THE ACCEPTED SENSE! I'VE GOT A HUNCH IT'S THE MONSTROUS CREATION OF A CRAZED BRAIN-- WHICH MEANS NO POWER ON EARTH CAN WITHSTAND IT!
BUT PERHAPS BRAINS COULD BE MORE POWERFUL THAN BULLETS! JIM NEEDED INFORMATION-- AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY WAS THE PLACE FOR IT!
IT--IT'S FLYING AWAY!
YES, BUT WHERE'S IT GOING?
YES, THIS WAS THE ALL-IMPORTANT QUESTION-- WHERE WAS THE MONSTER GOING? AND WHEN JIM AND GLORIA LEFT THE LIBRARY, THEY PRAYED THEY HAD THE RIGHT ANSWER! NEXT STEP, AN AIRPORT-- HOLLYWOOD-- THEN DR. STARK'S LABORATORY---
DR. STARK! YOU--BACK HERE?
THEN YOU KNOW--I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT AWFUL THING! I CAME BACK HOPING I COULD DO SOMETHING! YOU KNOW I NEVER MEANT---
YES-- BUT YOUR EVIL CREATION IS LOOSE, WITH NO POWER ON EARTH STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP IT! WE CAME HERE TO USE YOUR EQUIPMENT IN A DESPERATE PLAN-- ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP?
I'LL DO-- ANYTHING!
I THINK I KNOW WHERE THE CREATURE'S HEADED! NOW LISTEN... HERE'S WHAT I'VE LEARNED...
YES, THE BEAST WAS HEADING WEST--SPREADING TERROR AND DESTRUCTION IN ITS PATH! AND AS IT WINGED ITS DEADLY WAY---
OH, NO, NO! NOT HERE!
CAFE
SPECIAL TODAY
MEANWHILE, IN THE LAB, FEVERISH PREPARATIONS---
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BEAST'S DESTINATION FAST-- BEFORE IT CAN ARRIVE THERE!
THIS IS THE LAST OF THE EQUIPMENT! I-- I'M PRAYING IT WORKS!
5

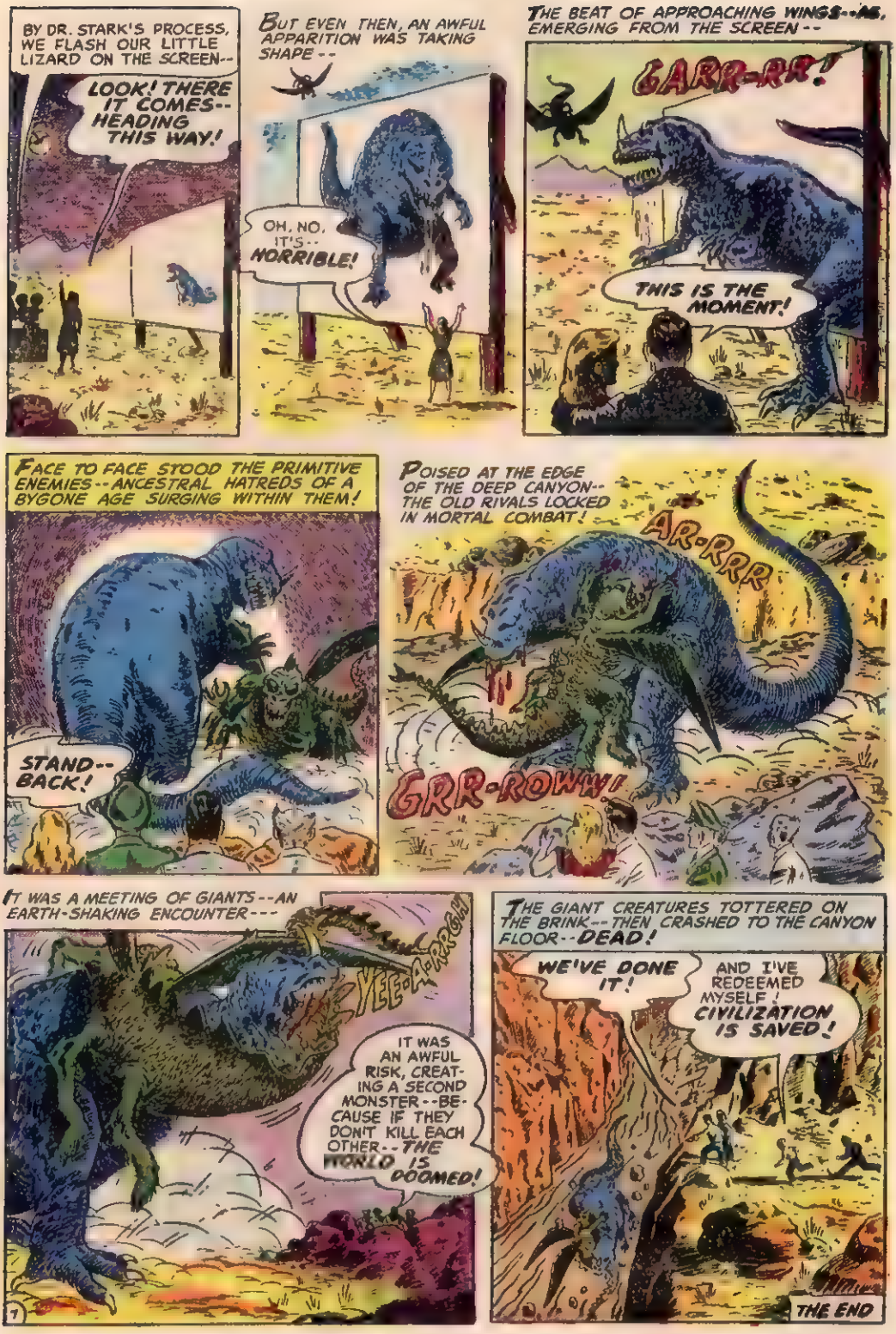

TIME WAS RUNNING SHORT! THE MONSTER WAS STILL HEADING WEST--AND NOW A DEVASTATED CHICAGO LAY IN ITS WAKE--
HOTEL
THANK HEAVENS, IT'S--GONE AT LAST!
BUT WHO KNOWS WHERE IT'S GOING TO STRIKE NEXT?
IT'S AS IF IT WERE DETERMINED TO DESTROY ALL CIVILIZATION--AND NOTHING CAN STOP IT!


AND WHAT OF JIM AND HIS PARTY? PREPARATIONS COMPLETED, THEY HAD ARRIVED AT THEIR DESTINATION--GRAND CANYON!
THE ONLY KNOWN REMAINS OF THE MONSTER'S ANCESTORS WERE FOUND HERE--AND MY HUNCH IS THAT BY INSTINCT, IT WILL SEEK OUT ITS ANCIENT HOME!
BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO?
IT SEEMS THAT THE LIZARD FROM WHICH THIS BEAST WAS CREATED IS A DESCENDANT OF THE ANCIENT RHEO-RHODOSORUS, WHOSE FOSSIL BONES HAVE BEEN FOUND INTERMINGLED WITH THOSE OF ITS ENEMY, THE TRIDACTRANSIUS! THAT INDICATES THAT THE TWO MONSTERS USED TO ENGAGE IN MORTAL COMBAT RESULTING IN DEATH FOR EACH OF THEM---


--SO, SINCE NO HUMAN MEANS CAN DESTROY THE THING, WE FOUND A DESCENDANT OF THE TRIDACTRANSIUS!
IT LOOKS LIKE A HARMLESS GARDEN LIZARD, BUT WITH THE AID OF MY PROCESS WHICH CREATED THE ORIGINAL MONSTER--

--WE HOPE TO RECREATE THE ONLY ENEMY CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THE RHEO-RHODOSORUS! --LET'S GO!
THE MONSTER SEEMS TO BE HEADED TOWARDS THE GRAND CANYON--WHERE TWO SCIENTISTS AWAIT ITS COMING! THESE MEN, IN WHOSE HANDS RESTS THE FATE OF CIVILIZATION---


READY? NOW--WE CAN ONLY PRAY!
6


BY DR. STARK'S PROCESS, WE FLASH OUR LITTLE LIZARD ON THE SCREEN--
LOOK! THERE IT COMES-- HEADING THIS WAY!
BUT EVEN THEN, AN AWFUL APPARITION WAS TAKING SHAPE--
OH, NO, IT'S-- HORRIBLE!
THE BEAT OF APPROACHING WINGS--AS, EMERGING FROM THE SCREEN--
GARR-RR!
THIS IS THE MOMENT!
FACE TO FACE STOOD THE PRIMITIVE ENEMIES--ANCESTRAL HATREDS OF A BYGONE AGE SURGING WITHIN THEM!
STAND-- BACK!
POISED AT THE EDGE OF THE DEEP CANYON-- THE OLD RIVALS LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT!
AR-RRR
GRR-ROWW!
IT WAS A MEETING OF GIANTS--AN EARTH-SHAKING ENCOUNTER---
YEE-A-RRG!
IT WAS AN AWFUL RISK, CREATING A SECOND MONSTER--BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T KILL EACH OTHER--THE WORLD IS DOOMED!
THE GIANT CREATURES TOTTERED ON THE BRINK--THEN CRASHED TO THE CANYON FLOOR--DEAD!
WE'VE DONE IT!
AND I'VE REDEEMED MYSELF! CIVILIZATION IS SAVED!
THE END
7

OUT of the NIGHT.. TO YOU!

THERE'S SOMETHING particularly apt about the title of the lead story of this issue of *"Out Of The Night"*. It's called *"Destination: The Unknown"*. It would be hard to find three other words which could better express the intention of this magazine, for from the very start our object has been to take you on weird and electrifying adventures into the fascinating realms which lie just beyond mortal understanding.

The *Unknown!* The very sound sends a chill galloping along the spine of every imaginative person. From the dawn of history man has been attempting to pierce the veil which shields the entrance to forbidden worlds. All of you who are old fans of *"Out Of The Night"* know well our strict editorial policies. Our stories are thoroughly researched. We try to keep only the very best in art and writing from even entering the pages of this magazine.

To those of you who are reading *"Out Of The Night"* for the first time, welcome! We think you'll find *"Destination: The Unknown"* a gripping and fascinating tale of supernatural terror. *"Out Of The Screen"* has a menace all its own, and we suspect you'll pause for thought before seeing your next 3-D movie. For the gasp-laden horror of *"The Big Kill!"* we journey to the steaming and pestilence-ridden jungles, where black magic and witchcraft have never died. But this is only *part* of the thrills and chills packed into this issue. You'll shudder to *"Strange Theory!"* and sit tensely through every terrifying moment of *"Sahara Madness!"*

We'd like to hear *your* opinion of our efforts. Simply drop a line to The Editor, *"Out Of The Night"*, 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. We'll be waiting to hear from you!

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 233)

Of OUT OF THE NIGHT, published Bi-monthly at St. Louis, Mo., for October 1, 1953.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Scope Magazines, Inc., 420 DeSoto Avenue, St. Louis 7, Mo.; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 West 183 St., New York, N.Y.; Managing editor, None; Business manager, Frederick H. Iger, 28 Sycamore Drive, Sands Point, N.Y.

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(Signed) RICHARD E. HUGHES, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1953.

Bernard Schwarz, Notary Public, State of New York.

(My commission expires March 30, 1955)

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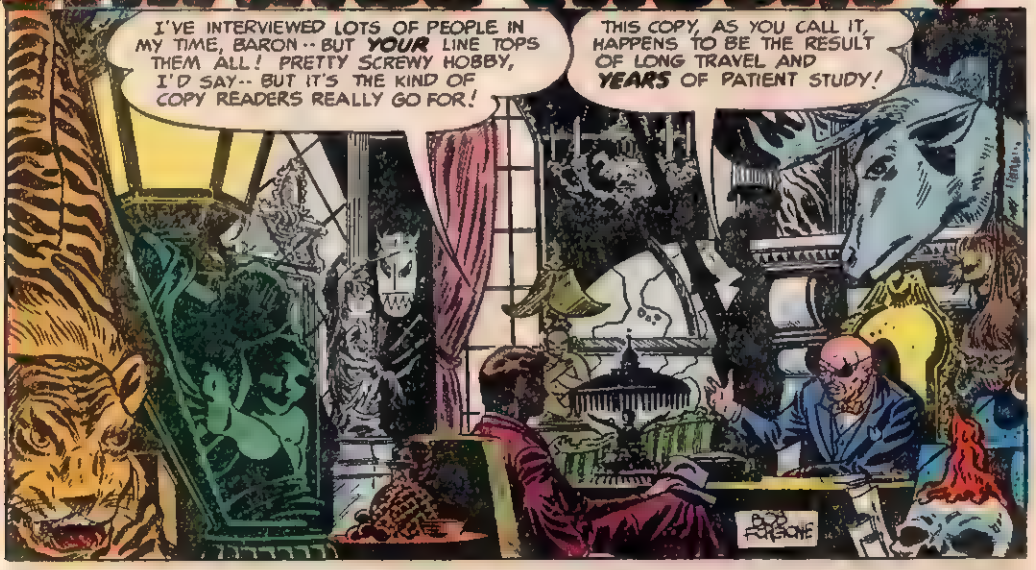
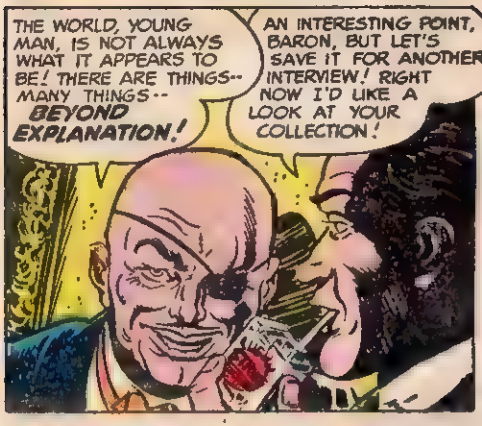
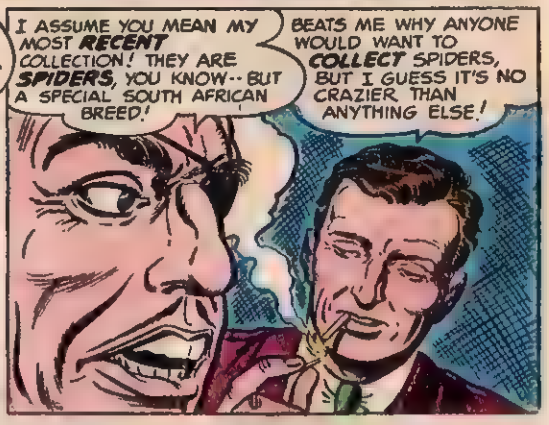
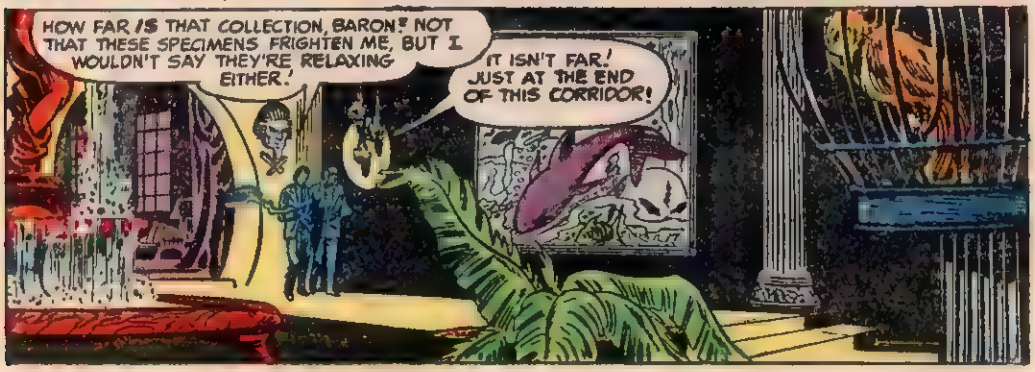
HE HAD GONE TO THE CASTLE FOR AN INTERVIEW, A STORY FOR HIS SUNDAY PAPER! BUT THOUGH HE KNEW THE BARON TO BE A 'STRANGE BIRD', THERE WERE THINGS HE *DIDN'T* KNOW- AND WORST OF ALL, HE SHOULDN'T HAVE SMILED AT THE --

STRANGE THEORY!

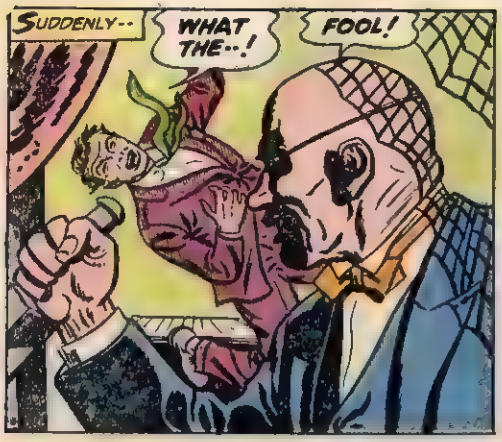


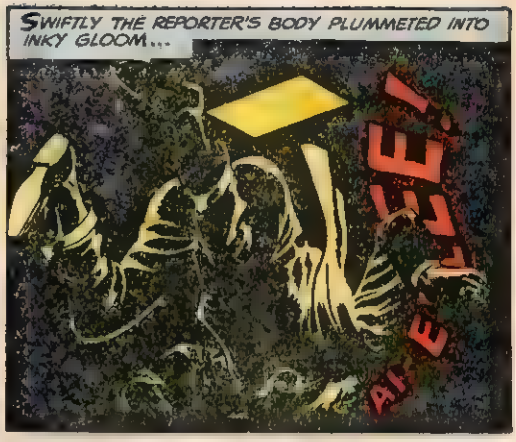






I'LL HAVE IT OPEN IN A MOMENT, BUT FIRST I MUST CAUTION YOU! DO NOTHING TO FRIGHTEN THEM!-- THEY ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE BEFORE STRANGERS!
DON'T WORRY! ALL I WANT IS ONE QUICK LOOK!
WOW! THE ROOM IS FULL OF WEBS!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? BUT ENTER-- THERE IS UTTLE TO SEE FROM HERE!
LOOK! THEY'RE RUNNING UP YOUR ARM!
OF COURSE! IN ME THEY SENSE A KINSHIP-- AND THAT GOES BACK TO THE THEORY WE WERE DISCUSSING EARLIER!
IN THE VILLAGE WHERE I OBTAINED THESE SPIDERS WAS A STRANGE NATIVE PEOPLE CALLED YORUBAS! THEIR WITCHDOCTORS WERE CAPABLE OF CHANGING THEIR HUMAN FORMS TO THAT OF ANIMALS! I BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON HAS AN ANIMAL COUNTERPART— AND THAT PROPER METHODS CAN AFFECT THE CHANGE!
YOUR THEORY IS CRAZY, BARON-- AND FRANKLY, THAT GOES FOR YOU, THIS CREEPY JOINT, AND YOUR NASTY FRIENDS!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT!
MAYBE NOT--BUT THERE IT IS! THANKS FOR THE STORY, BARON-- THE FOLKS WILL LOVE IT!
WAIT-- YOU HAVEN'T THE WHOLE STORY YET!
2


SUDDENLY--
WHAT THE--!
FOOL!

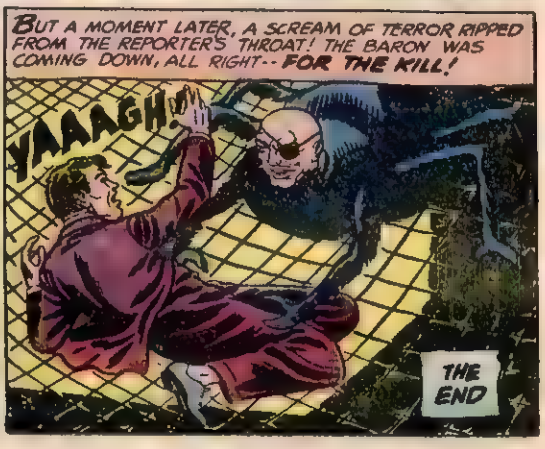

SWIFTLY THE REPORTER'S BODY PLUMMETED INTO INKY GLOOM...
AI-EEEE!

BUT A MOMENT LATER...
A NET! IT'S BROKEN MY FALL! I-- I'M ALL RIGHT!
THUMP!

I'M DEALING WITH A LUNATIC! I'LL HAVE TO HUMOR HIM-- IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE OF GETTING OUT!
BARON... CAN YOU HEAR ME?

WHAT IS IT?
I WAS ONLY KIDDING, BARON! I BELIEVE YOUR THEORY-- I REALLY DO! I'LL WRITE IT UP ANY WAY YOU WANT! JUST HELP ME OUT OF HERE!

BARON-- PLEASE! PLEASE, LET ME OUT OF HERE!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!


BUT A MOMENT LATER, A SCREAM OF TERROR RIPPED FROM THE REPORTER'S THROAT! THE BARON WAS COMING DOWN, ALL RIGHT-- FOR THE KILL!
YAAAGH!
THE END

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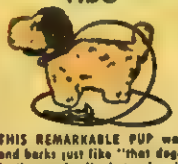
"FIDO"



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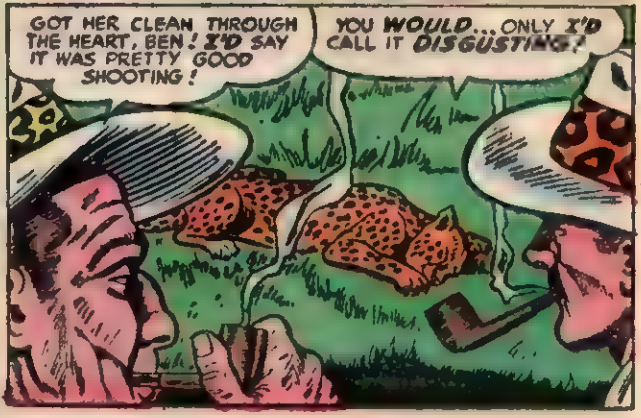
THE RIFLE WAS HIS SYMBOL OF SUPERIORITY, AND HE USED IT WITH A KILLER'S LUST! BUT THERE COMES A TIME WHEN ALL HUNTERS BECOME THE HUNTED! IT HAPPENED TO THE MAN NAMED KURT-- WHEN HE THREW CAUTION TO THE WIND, AND SET OUT AFTER...

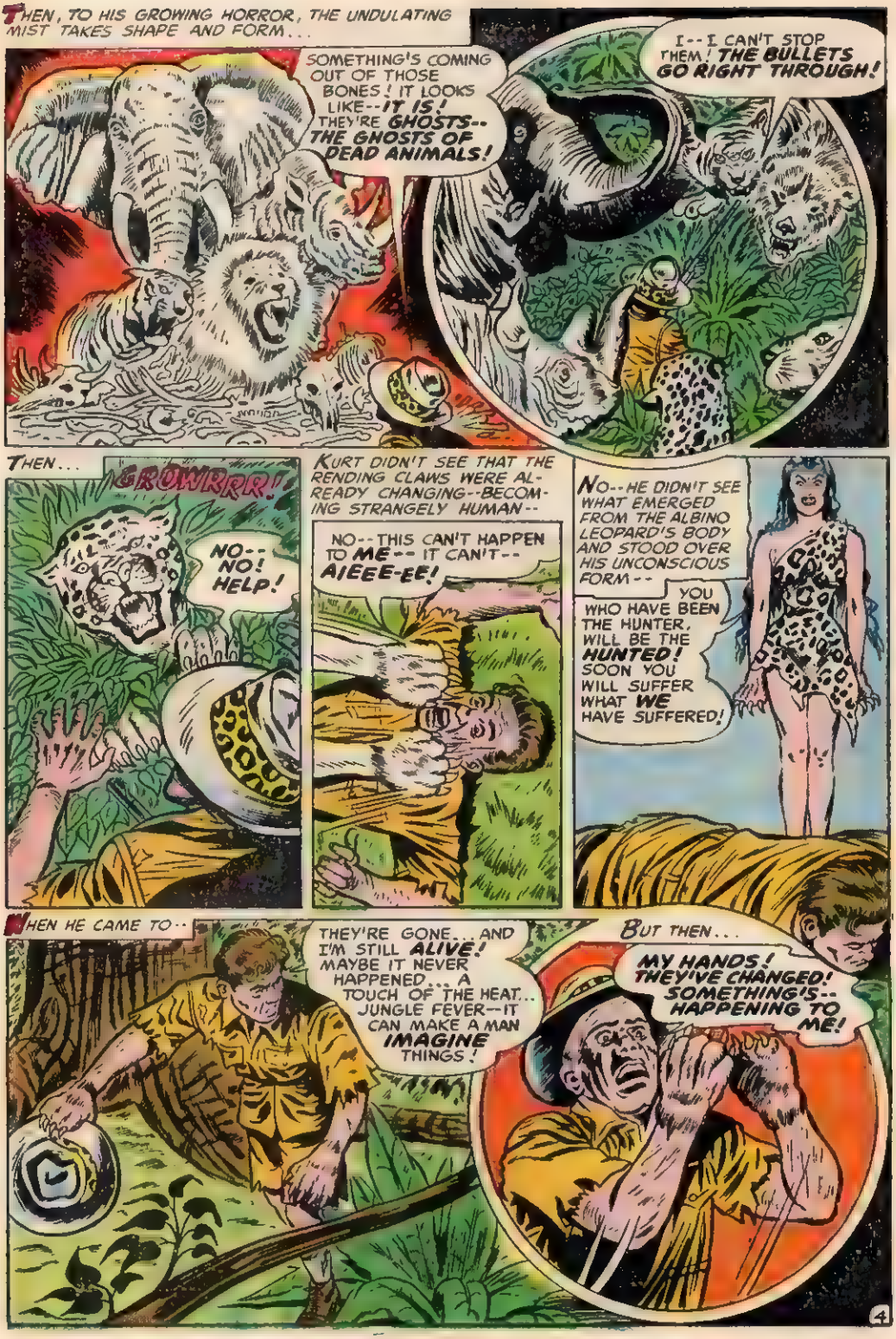
The BIG KILL!

IT BEGAN IN THE GREEN DEPTHS OF AN AFRICAN JUNGLE... WITH THE MURDEROUS BLAST OF A HUNTER'S RIFLE...



NO HUNTER WORTH HIS SALT KILLS A MOTHER WITH YOUNG! YOU'RE NO SPORTSMAN, KURT! YOU'RE A KILLER!
THINK WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT IT'S MY WAY!
I DIDN'T COME TO AFRICA TO CHASE BUTTERFLIES! I CAME HERE FOR THE BIG KILL--AND I SAY I'M DOING FINE! IT'S THEIR STRENGTH AGAINST MY RIFLE! THEIR CUNNING AGAINST MY INTELLIGENCE! EVERY TIME I BRING ONE OF 'EM DOWN, I FEEL GOOD INSIDE--REAL GOOD!
SUDDENLY...
GROWRRRR!
BWANA ...LOOK!
GREAT GUNS! IT'S AN ALBINO LEOPARD!
I'VE GOT 'ER SIGHTED! STAND CLEAR!
NO! NO KILL! SHE ROOLA WALL!
BANG!
AND WHEN THE ANGERED KURT RECOVERS...
SPOIL MY SHOT, WILL YA? MAYBE THIS WILL KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOUR SKULL!
PLEASE, BWANA... OH--HH!
LEMME GO! I'M NOT THROUGH YET!
YOU'RE THROUGH, ALL RIGHT--AS OF NOW! YOU'VE EITHER GOT A TOUCH OF THE HEAT, OR YOU'RE PLAIN NUTS! WE'RE CALLING IT QUITS, KURT! IT'S BACK TO CAMP TILL YOU COOL OFF!
2

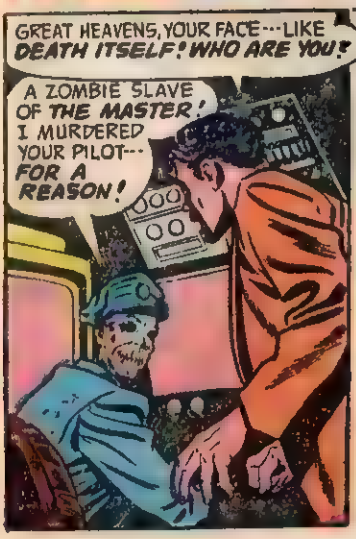
YOU DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS, BEN! NO ONE DOES!
UGH!
I'M GONNA GET THAT WHITE KILLER! THAT'S THE KIND OF GAME I'M AFTER! I'M GONNA BAG THAT DEMON IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
DON'T GO INTO THE BUSH ALONE! KURT... COME BACK!
I--I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER HIM! HE MAY NEED ME!
NO, BWANA! TO FOLLOW THE ROOLA WALLI IS TO DIE!
ROOLA WALLI? YOU MEAN--THAT WHITE LEOPARD?
YES, BWANA! SHE GREAT ANIMAL SPIRIT--WATCHES OVER BEASTS OF JUNGLE! TO SEE HER IS TO KNOW SHE IS ANGERED! AND THOSE WHO WOULD HUNT HER ARE CURSED!
MEANWHILE WITHIN THE STEAMING JUNGLE...
THAT'S HER, ALL RIGHT--UP AHEAD! GOT TO KEEP AFTER HER! ALL I WANT IS ONE SHOT AT HER IN THE OPEN--JUST ONE SHOT!
RUN YOU FIEND! GROWL SPIT AND SNARL ALL YOU LIKE BUT YOU WON'T ESCAPE! I'M COMING IN TO GET YOU AND I'M NOT STOPPING TILL I PUT A SLUG THROUGH YOUR BLASTED HIDE
BUT KURT'S FORWARD PLUNGE COMES TO AN ABRUPT HALT...
SKELETONS! THE BONES OF DEAD ANIMALS! IT'S SOME KIND OF GRAVEYARD!
3

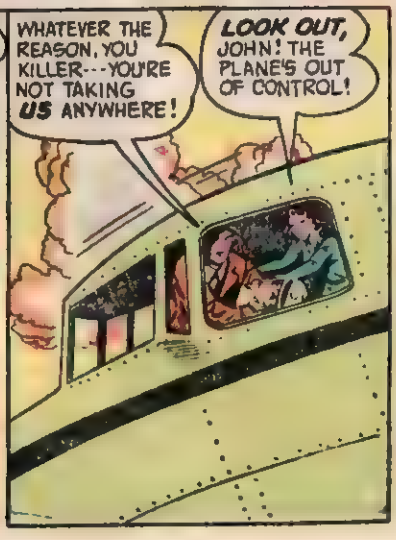

THEN, TO HIS GROWING HORROR, THE UNDULATING MIST TAKES SHAPE AND FORM...
SOMETHING'S COMING OUT OF THOSE BONES! IT LOOKS LIKE--IT IS! THEY'RE GHOSTS--THE GHOSTS OF DEAD ANIMALS!
I--I CAN'T STOP THEM! THE BULLETS GO RIGHT THROUGH!
THEN...
GROWRRR!
NO--NO! HELP!
KURT DIDN'T SEE THAT THE RENDING CLAWS WERE ALREADY CHANGING--BECOMING STRANGELY HUMAN--
NO--THIS CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME--IT CAN'T--AIEEE-EE!
NO--HE DIDN'T SEE WHAT EMERGED FROM THE ALBINO LEOPARD'S BODY AND STOOD OVER HIS UNCONSCIOUS FORM--
YOU WHO HAVE BEEN THE HUNTER, WILL BE THE HUNTED! SOON YOU WILL SUFFER WHAT WE HAVE SUFFERED!
WHEN HE CAME TO--
THEY'RE GONE...AND I'M STILL ALIVE! MAYBE IT NEVER HAPPENED...A TOUCH OF THE HEAT...JUNGLE FEVER--IT CAN MAKE A MAN IMAGINE THINGS!
BUT THEN...
MY HANDS! THEY'VE CHANGED! SOMETHING'S--HAPPENING TO ME!
4

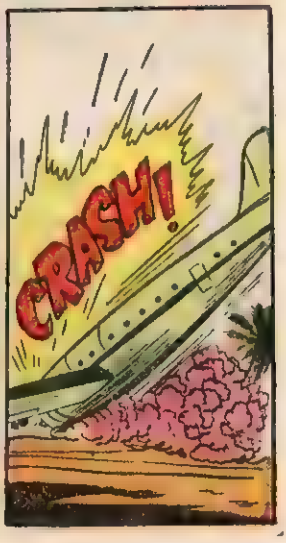
HELP... HELP!
THAT'S KURT! HE'S IN TROUBLE! COME ON!
I CAN'T SEE YOU! WHERE ARE YOU, KURT? IT'S ME... BEN!
THEN THE LONG JUNGLE GRASS BENT TO THE WEIGHT OF A RUNNING FORM..
I'M HERE, BEN! HELP ME, HELP!
HURRY, BEN, BEFORE--MY FACE! IT'S STARTING TO CHANGE! MY THROAT! THE WORDS WON'T-- GAR-RRR!
AND AS BEN REACHED THE SPOT--
RRR-RRROW!
BANG!
WE CAN'T WASTE TIME, NABBO! THIS BEAST MUST HAVE GOTTEN KURT! WE'LL HAVE TO START A SEARCH!
NO SEARCH NOW, BWANA! COME LOOK!
GOOD HEAVENS! THAT SCAR--IT'S IDENTICAL TO KURT'S! THAT MEANS--
YES, BWANA! TO FOLLOW THE ROOLA WALLI IS TO DIE!
THE END

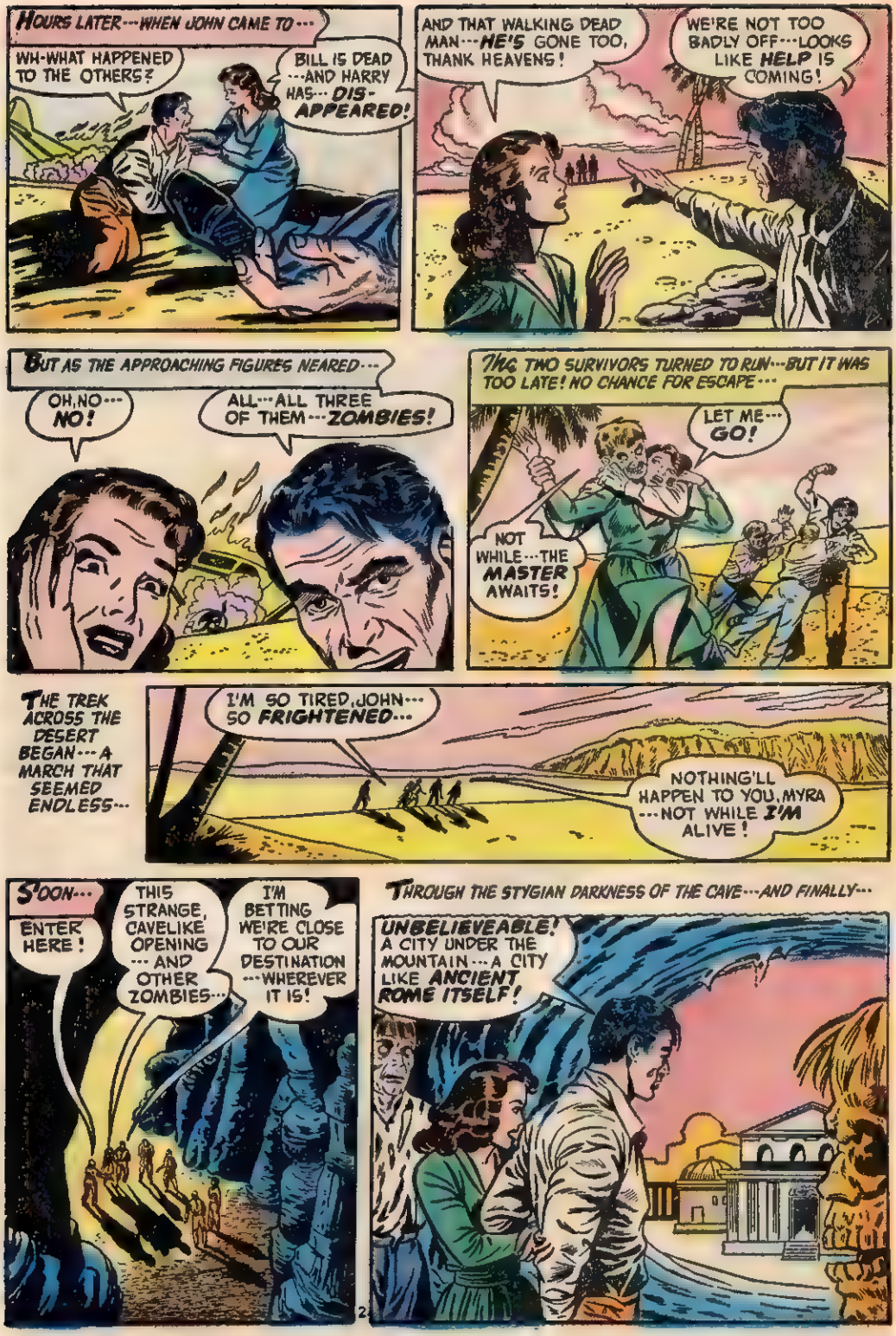
THE USO TROUPE OF FOUR PEOPLE, FLYING FROM GIBRALTAR TO THE EAST, WERE IN THE AIR FOR SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE THE CHANGE OF COURSE WAS NOTICED! BY THEN, IT WAS TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE ADVENTURE INTO FEAR CALLED···

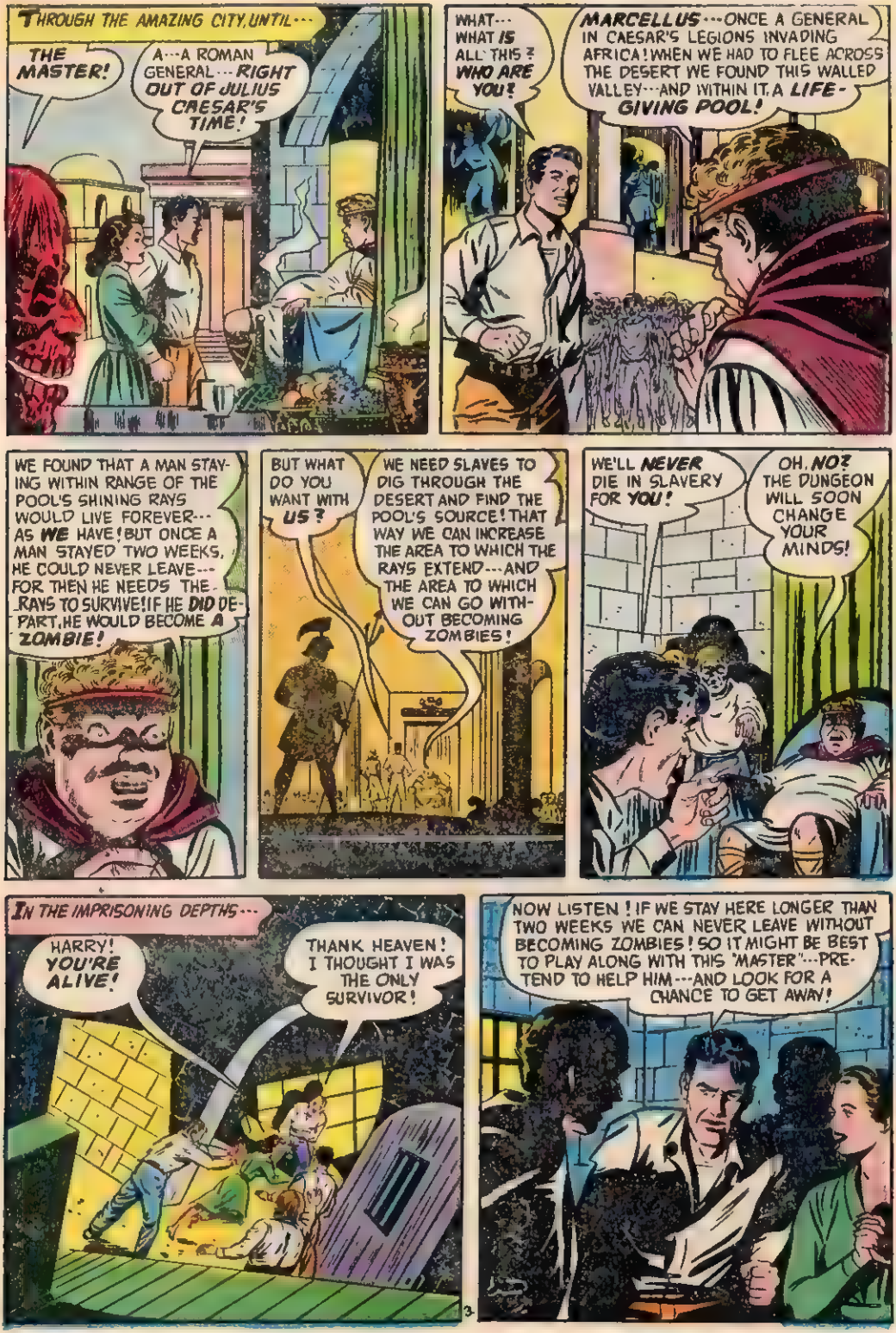
SAHARA MADNESS!

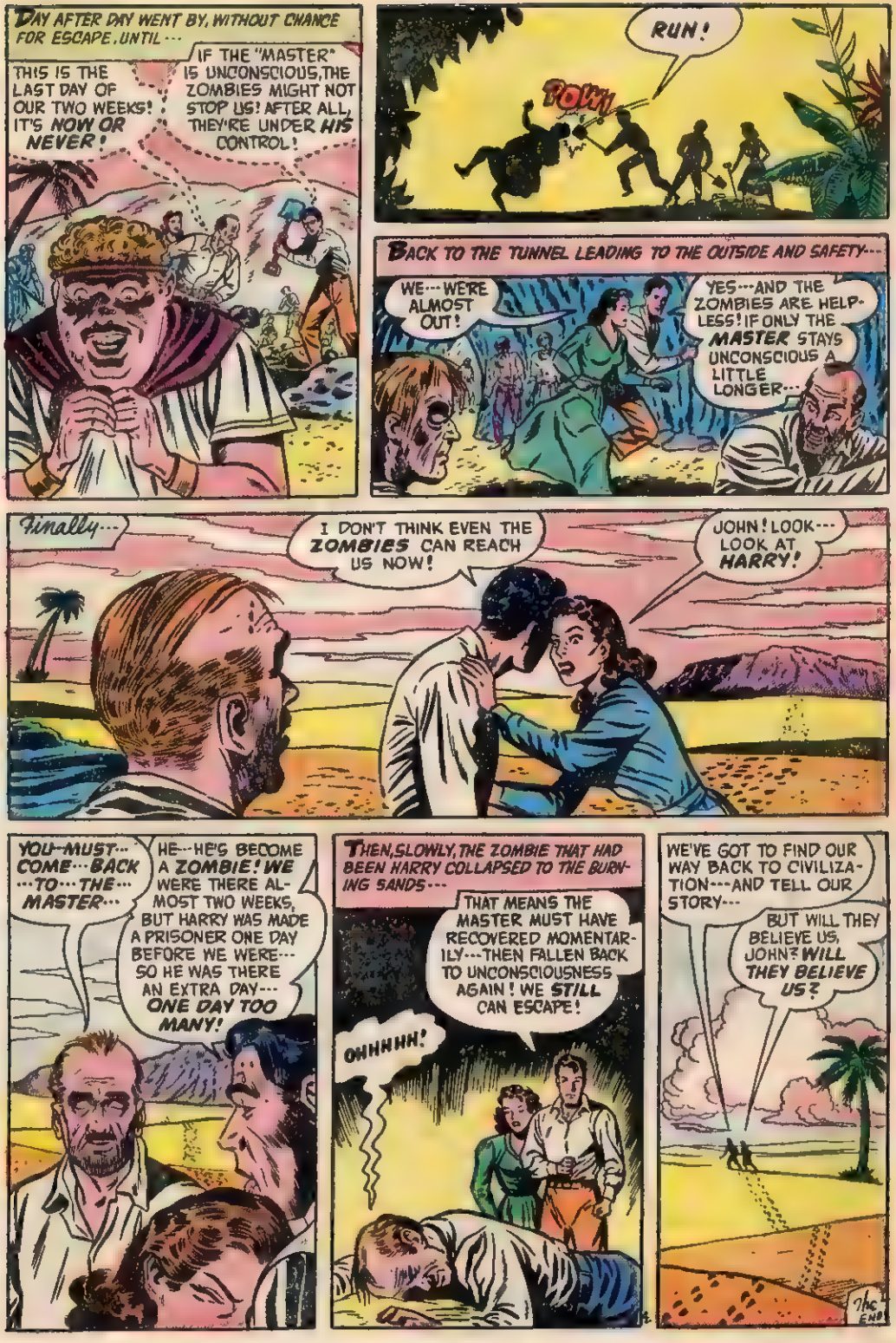







HOURS LATER···WHEN JOHN CAME TO···
WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?
BILL IS DEAD ···AND HARRY HAS··· DIS-APPEARED!
AND THAT WALKING DEAD MAN···HE'S GONE TOO, THANK HEAVENS!
WE'RE NOT TOO BADLY OFF···LOOKS LIKE HELP IS COMING!
BUT AS THE APPROACHING FIGURES NEARED···
OH,NO··· NO!
ALL···ALL THREE OF THEM···ZOMBIES!
THE TWO SURVIVORS TURNED TO RUN···BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! NO CHANCE FOR ESCAPE···
LET ME··· GO!
NOT WHILE···THE MASTER AWAITS!
THE TREK ACROSS THE DESERT BEGAN··· A MARCH THAT SEEMED ENDLESS···
I'M SO TIRED,JOHN··· SO FRIGHTENED···
NOTHING'LL HAPPEN TO YOU,MYRA ···NOT WHILE I'M ALIVE!
S'OON···
ENTER HERE!
THIS STRANGE, CAVELIKE OPENING ··· AND OTHER ZOMBIES···
I'M BETTING WE'RE CLOSE TO OUR DESTINATION ···WHEREVER IT IS!
THROUGH THE STYGIAN DARKNESS OF THE CAVE···AND FINALLY···
UNBELIEVEABLE! A CITY UNDER THE MOUNTAIN···A CITY LIKE ANCIENT ROME ITSELF!


THROUGH THE AMAZING CITY, UNTIL···
THE MASTER!
A···A ROMAN GENERAL···RIGHT OUT OF JULIUS CAESAR'S TIME!
WHAT··· WHAT IS ALL THIS? WHO ARE YOU?
MARCELLUS···ONCE A GENERAL IN CAESAR'S LEGIONS INVADING AFRICA! WHEN WE HAD TO FLEE ACROSS THE DESERT WE FOUND THIS WALLED VALLEY···AND WITHIN IT, A LIFE-GIVING POOL!
WE FOUND THAT A MAN STAYING WITHIN RANGE OF THE POOL'S SHINING RAYS WOULD LIVE FOREVER··· AS WE HAVE! BUT ONCE A MAN STAYED TWO WEEKS, HE COULD NEVER LEAVE··· FOR THEN HE NEEDS THE RAYS TO SURVIVE! IF HE DID DEPART, HE WOULD BECOME A ZOMBIE!
BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?
WE NEED SLAVES TO DIG THROUGH THE DESERT AND FIND THE POOL'S SOURCE! THAT WAY WE CAN INCREASE THE AREA TO WHICH THE RAYS EXTEND···AND THE AREA TO WHICH WE CAN GO WITHOUT BECOMING ZOMBIES!
WE'LL NEVER DIE IN SLAVERY FOR YOU!
OH, NO? THE DUNGEON WILL SOON CHANGE YOUR MINDS!
IN THE IMPRISONING DEPTHS···
HARRY! YOU'RE ALIVE!
THANK HEAVEN! I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR!
NOW LISTEN! IF WE STAY HERE LONGER THAN TWO WEEKS WE CAN NEVER LEAVE WITHOUT BECOMING ZOMBIES! SO IT MIGHT BE BEST TO PLAY ALONG WITH THIS "MASTER"···PRETEND TO HELP HIM···AND LOOK FOR A CHANCE TO GET AWAY!
3


DAY AFTER DAY WENT BY, WITHOUT CHANCE FOR ESCAPE. UNTIL ···
THIS IS THE LAST DAY OF OUR TWO WEEKS! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
IF THE "MASTER" IS UNCONSCIOUS, THE ZOMBIES MIGHT NOT STOP US! AFTER ALL, THEY'RE UNDER HIS CONTROL!
RUN!
POW!
BACK TO THE TUNNEL LEADING TO THE OUTSIDE AND SAFETY···
WE··· WE'RE ALMOST OUT!
YES··· AND THE ZOMBIES ARE HELPLESS! IF ONLY THE MASTER STAYS UNCONSCIOUS A LITTLE LONGER···
Finally···
I DON'T THINK EVEN THE ZOMBIES CAN REACH US NOW!
JOHN! LOOK··· LOOK AT HARRY!
YOU-MUST··· COME··· BACK ···TO··· THE··· MASTER···
HE··· HE'S BECOME A ZOMBIE! WE WERE THERE ALMOST TWO WEEKS, BUT HARRY WAS MADE A PRISONER ONE DAY BEFORE WE WERE··· SO HE WAS THERE AN EXTRA DAY··· ONE DAY TOO MANY!
THEN, SLOWLY, THE ZOMBIE THAT HAD BEEN HARRY COLLAPSED TO THE BURNING SANDS···
THAT MEANS THE MASTER MUST HAVE RECOVERED MOMENTARILY··· THEN FALLEN BACK TO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AGAIN! WE STILL CAN ESCAPE!
OHHHHH!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUR WAY BACK TO CIVILIZATION··· AND TELL OUR STORY···
BUT WILL THEY BELIEVE US, JOHN? WILL THEY BELIEVE US?
THE END

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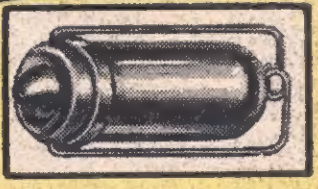

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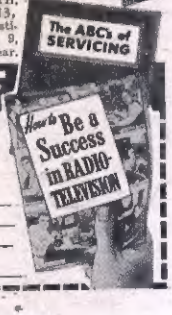

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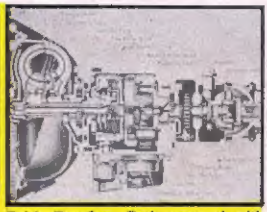

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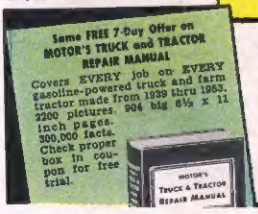

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